

Dear Senior Leadership Group,

On February 28, 2017, Community Council convened a discussion on the topic of Charles Murray. The discussion yielded a full recommendation approved by the majority of the body. As one of the only cohesive and official bodies representing the entire community, we believe the recommendation represents our collective moral responsibility. We hope our opinion is taken into serious consideration by President Patton and the administration.

It is our opinion that Middlebury College is providing a platform for a white nationalist perpetuates institutional racism on campus and in the broader Middlebury community. The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), “a non-profit organization that combats hate, intolerance and discrimination through education and litigation,” has identified Charles Murray as a white nationalist. Further, SPLC has indicated that Charles Murray has “become one of the most influential social scientists in America, using racist pseudoscience and misleading statistics to argue that social inequality is caused by the genetic inferiority” of black people. Charles Murray has yet to change his views on his racist beliefs. AEI representatives have confirmed that Allison Stanger, the talk’s moderator, will engage in open debate with Murray by questioning his The Bell Curve theory, giving him opportunities to spread his racist ideology within our community

President Patton is committed to an everyday ethic of inclusivity, yet has elected to welcome and introducing a white supremacist at Middlebury. This will serve as a recognition of hate speech and racist ideology as civil discourse deserving of academic engagement. President Patton has been a strong supporter of “conversation first” but has failed to have a dialog with either the Student Government or Community Council concerning why she would even consider introducing a white nationalist to speak at this institution. In a similar vein, the Political Science department co-sponsoring Murray’s talk has negative implications on black and brown Political Science majors who now must learn within a department that finds value in supporting a man who believes black and brown majors are intellectually and even genetically inferior to their white counterparts.

**Therefore, Community Council officially condemns Charles Murray speaking at Middlebury College and recommends that**

- a) President Laurie Patton refrains from introducing a known white nationalist in the form of Charles Murray.
- b) the Political Science department immediately rescind the co-sponsorship of Charles Murray’s talk.